tation of the recommendations of the Wage Board for industrial workers;

(b) whether Government are aware that certain companies dealing in cement work have not implemented the recommendations of the Wage Board; and

(c) if so, what provisions have been made for preventing violations of the recommendations of the Wage Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir

(b) Two Wage Boards were set up for the Cement Industry in 1958 and 1964. After the second Cement Wage Board, there have been two Arbitration Awards for the workers of Cement Industry in 1978 and 1983. These awards were in pursuance of the Arbitration Agreements under Section 10A of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

A case has come to notice in a Cement Plant in Maharashtra recently where an industrial dispute was sought to be raised regarding the date from which the Award would be applicable in that unit. There was a strike over this issue. The Industrial Court held the strike to be illegal.

(c) The Cement Wage Boards were non-statutory bodies and there were no statutory provisions for securing enforcement of their recommendations. The Arbitration Awards are, however, legally enforceable under the various provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, both against the employers as also workmen, for any breach of the Awards.

Shortage of Yarn in Tamil Nadu

*356. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the difficulties being experienced by the powerloom/handloom sectors in Tamil Nadu due to acute yarn shortage following the recent export of large quantity of yarn have been brought to his notice; and

(b) if so, what steps his Ministry has taken to remove the hardship caused to the powerloom/handloom sectors to enable them to meet their commitments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The Government have been receiving representations from various quarters regarding difficulties being faced by the handloom and powerloom sectors in Tamil Nadu. These sectors in Tamil Nadu also face the general situation in the country, namely that profitability of weaving operations has been affected by the rise of prices of cotton yarn and poor off-take of cloth due to erosion of purchasing power in rural and urban areas, mostly due to drought conditions and floods.

The difficulites are due to increase in yarn prices not availability since Tamil Nadu has having surplus yarn production. The supply of yarn to handloom weavers within the cooperative fold is fully met by Cooperative Spinning Mills through Cooptex Cooperative Spinning Mills have set up two common yarn selling Depots, one at Salem and the other at Madurai to supply yarn to the weavers outside the cooperative fold. The National Textile Corporation is also having yarn depots at Madurai, Coimbatore, Salem, Tirpur Erode and Somanur.

The release of quota for export of cotton has been suspended. Government are maintaining a constant watch and taking necessary measures to ensure availability of yarn at reasonable prices.